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George C. Marshall Space Flight Center Marshall Space Flight Center, Alabama 35812

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DESIGN CRITERIA FOR CONTROLLING STRESS CORROSION CRACKING

Prepared by
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STRESS

MATERIALS

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MSFC-SPEC-522B Supersedes: MSFC-SPEC-522A

GEORGE C. MARSHALL SPACE FLIGHT CENTER
NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION
MARSHALL SPACE FLIGHT CENTER, ALABAMA

DESIGN CRITERIA FOR CONTROLLING STRESS CORROSION CRACKING

1. PURPOSE:

This document sets forth the criteria to be used in the selection of materials for space vehicles and associated equipment and facilities so that failure resulting from stress corrosion will be prevented.

2. SCOPE:

The requirements established herein apply to all metallic components proposed for use in space vehicles and other flight hardware, ground support equipment, and facilifies for testing. These requirements are applicable not only to items designed and fabricated by MSFC and its prime contractors, but also to items supplied to the prime contractor by subcontractors and vendors.

3. GENERAL:

3.1 Definition

Stress corrosion may be defined as the combined action of sustained tensile stress and corrosion to cause premature failure of materials. Certain materials are more susceptible than others. If a susceptible material is placed in service in a corrosive environment under tension of sufficient magnitude, and the duration of service is sufficient to permit the initiation and growth of cracks, failure will occur at a stress lower than the material would normally be expected to withstand. The corrosive environment need not be severe in terms of general corrosive attack. Service failures due to stress corrosion are frequently encountered for which the surfaces of the failed parts are not visibly corroded in a general sense. If failure is to be avoided, the total tensile stress in service must be maintained at a safe level. There is no absolute threshold stress for stress corrosion, such as with other material

properties, but comparative stress corrosion thresholds can be determined for materials for certain controlled conditions of test. Estimates of the stress corrosion threshold for a specific service application must be determined for each alloy and heat treatment using a test piece, stressing procedure, and corrosive environment that are appropriate for the intended service.

3.2 Limitations

The stress corrosion susceptibility of alloys included in this document was determined at ambient temperature by laboratory tests in which specimens were either sprayed with salt water or periodically immersed and withdrawn, by exposure of specimens in seacoast or mild industrial environments, and by service experience with fabricated hardware. Use of the criteria established herein should, therefore, be limited to designs for service involving similar exposure conditions. Behavior of the listed materials at elevated temperature, and in specific chemical environments other than those mentioned above, must be ascertained by additional testing.

Weldments present a special problem in designing for resistance to stress corrosion cracking. In addition to the susceptibility of the parent metals, it is also necessary to consider the filler metal and the microstructural effects of heat introduced by the welding operations and subsequent heat treatments. Because of the additional variables which must be considered, susceptibility data are not as extensive for weldments as for alloys in mill form. Design criteria for weldments in this document are limited to aluminum alloys, selected stainless steels in the 300 series, and other specific alloys listed in Table I.

This document is intended to provide general criteria to be used in designing for resistance to stress corrosion cracking. Specific test data and other detailed information are not included. However, a list of references is attached as Appendix A from which additional information can be obtained.

3.3 Grain Orientation

4

Rolling, extruding, and forging are the most common processing operations employed in the production of standard wrought forms of metal. All produce a flow of metal in a predominant direction so that, microscopically, the metal is neither isotropic nor homogeneous. As a result, the properties of the metal vary according to the direction in which they are measured. The extent of directional variation depends on the property of interest. For susceptibility to stress corrosion cracking, the directional variation can be appreciable and must be considered in the design of fabricated hardware.

The anistropy of grain orientation produced by rolling and extruding is illustrated schematically in Figure 1. Taking the rolled plate as an example, it is conventional to describe the direction of rolling as the longitudinal direction, the direction perpendicular to the longitudinal and in the plane of the plate as the long transverse direction, and the direction through the thickness of the plate as the short transverse direction. For certain shapes, it is not possible to distinguish both a long and short transverse direction based on the simple rules used to identify those directions for plate. As an example, consider the thick tee illustrated in Figure 2 where a region with both long and short transverse orientations has been identified based on experience with that particular shape and a knowledge of the forming method.

Forgings also require special consideration in identifying the short transverse direction. In a forging operation, the flow of metal is influenced and constrained by the shape of the die cavity. For complex shapes, there may be several regions where a short transverse direction exists. The direction perpendicular to the parting plane of the dies is always short transverse as illustrated in Figure 3.

The resistance of metals, particularly alloys of aluminum, to stress corrosion cracking is always less when tension is applied in a transverse direction. It is least for the short transverse direction. Figures 2 and 3 were drawn to illustrate undesirable situations in which tensile stresses due to assembly have been applied in the short transverse direction. For optimum resistance to stress corrosion cracking, similar situations must be avoided in structural design.

3.4 Stress Considerations

In designing for stress corrosion resistance it is important to realize that stresses are additive and threshold stresses for susceptibility are often low. There have been a number of stress corrosion failures for which design stresses were intermittent and of short duration, and only of minor significance in contributing to failure. Stress corrosion cracking in those cases occurred because of a combination of residual and assembly stresses not even anticipated in design. All possible sources of stress must be considered to ensure that threshold stresses are not exceeded. In addition to stresses resulting from operational, transportation, and storage loads which are anticipated during design; assembly and residual stresses also contribute to stress corrosion, and in many cases are the major contributors to stress corrosion failure. Assembly stresses result from improper tolerances during fit-up (Figures 2 and 3), overtorquing, press fits, high interference fasteners, and welding.

Residual stresses are present in components of fabricated structure as a result of machining, forming, and heat treating operations. Some typical residual stress distributions through plate and rod are illustrated in Figure 4 to provide an indication of the magnitudes of stress which can be developed as the result of conventional heat treating and forming operations.

3.5 Susceptibility of Engineering Alloys

a. Aluminum - Many aluminum alloys exhibit excellent resistance to stress corrosion cracking in all standard tempers. However, the high strength alloys, which are of primary interest in aerospace applications, must be approached cautiously. Some are resistant only in the longitudinal grain direction, and the resistance of others varies with the specific temper. Because metallurgical processing of aluminum alloys usually results in a pronounced elongation of grains, the variation of susceptibility with grain orientation is more extensive than for other metals. Also, because of conventional processing methods designed to optimize strength, residual stresses, especially in thick sections, are usually greater in aluminum products than in wrought forms of other metals. It is for this reason that wrought, heat treatable aluminum products specified for use in the fabrication of hardware should be mechanically stress relieved (the TX5X or TX5XX temper designations) whenever possible.

Both the residual stress distribution and the grain orientation must be carefully considered in designing a part to be machined from wrought aluminum. Machining will not only alter the stress distribution, but as indicated in Figure 2a, it may also result in the exposure of a short transverse region on the surface of the finished part which will see tension in service.

- b. Steel Carbon and low alloy steels with ultimate tensile strengths below 180 ksi are generally resistant to stress corrosion cracking. Austenitic stainless steels of the 300 series are generally resistant. Martensitic stainless steels of the 400 series are more or less susceptible depending on composition and heat treatment. Precipitation hardening stainless steels vary in susceptibility from extremely high to extremely low depending on composition and heat treatment. The susceptibility of these steels is particularly sensitive to heat treatment, and special vigilance is required to avoid stress corrosion cracking problems.
- c. Nickel As a class, alloys with high nickel content are resistant to stress corrosion cracking.

d. Copper - Natural atmospheres containing pollutants of sulfur dioxide, oxides of nitrogen, and ammonia are reported to cause stress corrosion cracking of some copper alloys. Chlorides present in marine atmospheres may cause stress corrosion problems but to a lesser extent than the previously listed pollutants, which indicates that industrial areas are probably more aggressive than marine sites to copper base alloys. Many copper alloys containing over 20 percent zinc are susceptible to stress corrosion cracking even in the presence of alloying additions which normally impart resistance to stress corrosion.

4. MATERIALS USAGE AGREEMENTS:

This document does not purport to be all inclusive of factors and criteria necessary for the total control of stress corrosion cracking in alloys. It is recognized that for many applications involving unfamiliar materials, or unusual combinations of materials and environments, existing data on stress corrosion susceptibility will be insufficient. To ensure adequate stress corrosion resistance in these situations, it will be necessary to conduct a detailed evaluation of susceptibility. The results must be submitted to MSFC for review, and MSFC approval will be required before the material can be used or incorporated in a design under the circumstances in question. The medium for submittal will be the Materials Usage Agreement (MUA), a copy of which is attached as Appendix B. In addition, all materials applications other than those explicitly approved according to the criteria set forth in this document will be predicated on MSFC approval of an MUA submitted either by a prime contractor or by a subcontractor through the prime. The MUA will contain the information specified on the Stress Corrosion Evaluation Form, attached as Appendix C, along with any other information deemed necessary for the accurate assessment of the potential for stress corrosion failure. Where possible, similar usages of the same or similar alloys should be submitted on a single MUA.

5. MATERIALS SELECTION CRITERIA:

Alloys and tempers which by testing and experience have been shown to possess high resistance to stress corrosion cracking are listed in Table I. These should be used preferentially, and MSFC approval is not required prior to their use. All other alloys and weldments not listed in Table I, except as specifically exempted, require that an MUA be submitted for approval.

Alloys and tempers listed in Table II are moderately resistant to stress corrosion cracking. They should be considered for use only for cases where a suitable alloy cannot be found in Table I. An MUA must be submitted and MSFC approval must be given before any alloy or weldments in Table II can be used. Proposed utilization of materials from Table II in applications involving high installation stress, such as springs or fasteners, will not be approved. Sheet material (less than 0.250 inch thick) of the aluminum alloys and conditions listed in Table II is considered resistant to stress corrosion and does not require MSFC approval.

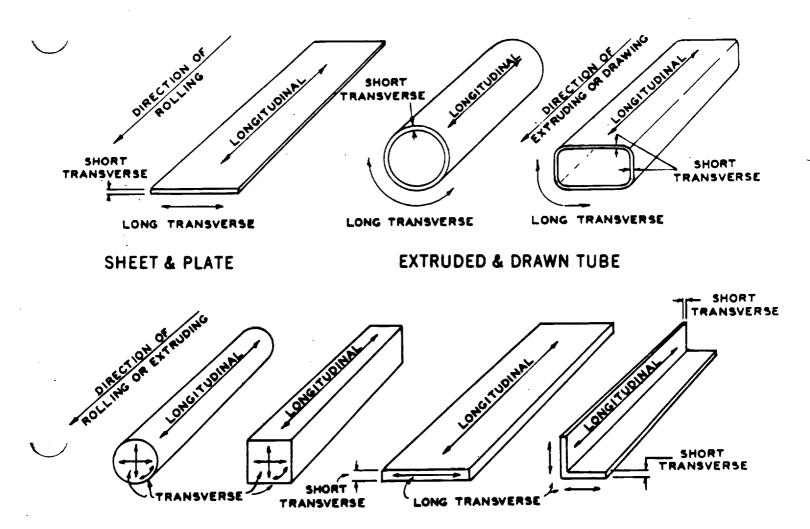
The alloys listed in Table III have been found to be highly susceptible to stress corrosion cracking. They should be considered for use only in applications where it can be demonstrated conclusively that the probability of stress corrosion is remote because of low sustained tensile stress (whatever its origin) in critical grain directions, suitable protective measures, or an innocuous environment. The use of materials in Table III must be substantiated by an MUA approved by MSFC.

Alloys used for electrical wiring, thermocouple wires, magnet wires and similar non-structural electrical or electronic applications are exempt from the requirements of this specification.

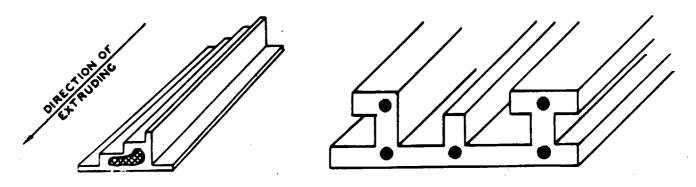
Protective coatings such as electroplate, anodize or chemical conversion coatings do not change the stress corrosion rating of alloys to which they are applied. Table II and III alloys thus treated must be identified and MUA and stress corrosion forms submitted to MSFC for approval prior to their use.

Surface treatments such as carburizing or nitriding may adversely affect the stress corrosion rating of materials to which they are applied. All materials thus treated must be identified and MUA and stress corrosion forms submitted to MSFC for approval prior to their use.

The stress corrosion resistance of alloys and weldments not listed in this document must be ascertained either by tests conducted in an environment representative of the proposed application or by a direct comparison with similar alloys and weldments for which susceptibility is known to be low. An MUA must be submitted and approval obtained for each proposed application of an alloy or weldment not listed in this document. In special cases where specific data are already available on a material under environmental conditions representative of anticipated exposure conditions, an MUA for usage of this material within prescribed limits may be submitted for approval.



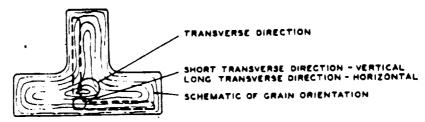
ROLLED & EXTRUDED ROD BAR & THIN SHAPES



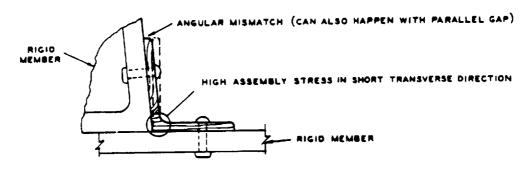
CROSS HATCHED AREAS ARE TRANSVERSE. OTHER AREAS SAME AS INDICATED above

EXTRUDED THICK & COMPLEX SHAPES

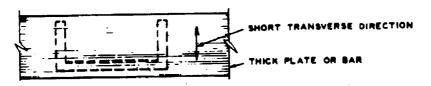
FIGURE 1 - GRAIN ORIENTATIONS IN STANDARD WROUGHT FORMS



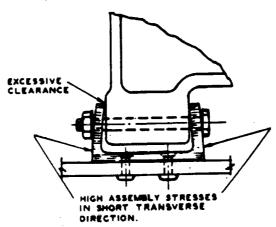
LOCATION OF MACHINED ANGLE WITH RESPECT TO TRANSVERSE GRAIN FLOW IN THICK TEE



ASSEMBLY STRESS RESULTING FROM MISMATCH

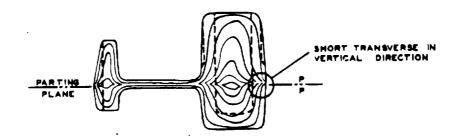


LOCATION OF MACHINED CHANNEL IN PLATE OR BAR

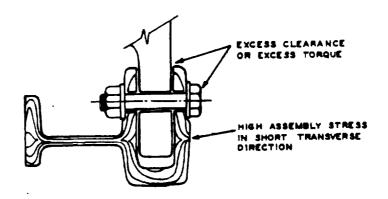


ASSEMBLY STRESS RESULTING FROM EXCESSIVE CLEARANCE

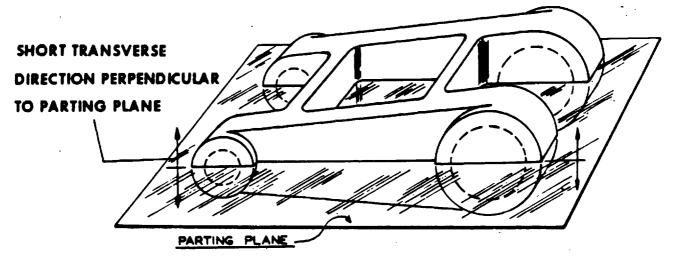
FIGURE 2 - EXAMPLES OF TENSILE STRESSES IN SHORT TRANSVERSE DIRECTION APPLIED DURING ASSEMBLY



CROSS SECTION OF DIE FORGING SHOWING OUTLINE OF MACHINED PART

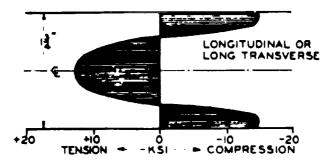


ASSEMBLY STRESS IN MACHINED FORGING WITH EXCESSIVE CLEARANCE

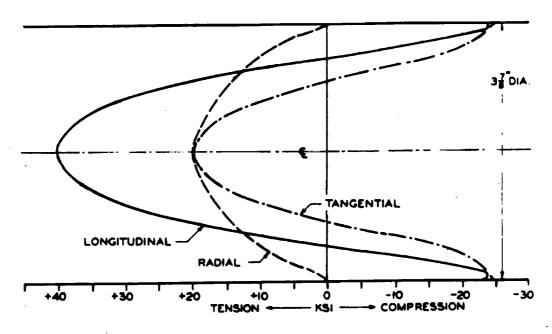


TYPICAL DIE FORGING, INTERFERENCE FIT BUSHINGS OR PINS IN HOLES SHOWN BY DASHED LINES IMPOSE SUSTAINED RESIDUAL TENSILE STRESSES IN TRANSVERSE DIRECTION

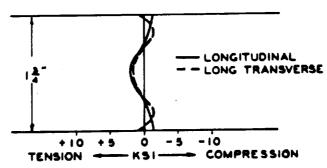
FIGURE 3 - EXAMPLES OF TENSILE STRESSES IN SHORT TRANSVERSE DIRECTION RESULTING FROM ASSEMBLY



7075-T6 PLATE, QUENCHED IN COLD WATER AND NOT STRESS RELIEVED



7075-T6 ROD, QUENCHED IN COLD WATER AND NOT STRESS RELIEVED.



7075-T651 PLATE, STRETCHED 2% AFTER COLD WATER QUENCH.

FIGURE 4 - TYPICAL RESIDUAL STRESS DISTRIBUTIONS IN 7075 ALUMINUM ALLOY SHAPES

TABLE I

ALLOYS WITH HIGH RESISTANCE TO STRESS CORROSION CRACKING

STEEL ALLOYS

Alloy

Carbon Steel (1000 Series) Below 180 ksi UTS Low Alloy Steel (4130, 4340, D6AC, etc.) Below 180 ksi UTS Music Wire (ASTM 228) Cold Drawn 1095 Spring Steel Tempered HY 80 Steel Tempered HY 130 Steel Tempered HY 140 Steel Tempered ASP 11 Aged 200 Series Stainless Steel (Unsensitized) All 300 Series Stainless Steel (Unsensitized) (1) All 400 Series Ferritic Stainless Steel (404, 430, 444, etc.) All Nitronic 32 Nitronic 33⁽²⁾ Annealed Annealed Nitronic 40 (formerly 21-6-9) (2) Annealed A-286 Stainless Steel A11 AM-350 Stainless Steel SCT 1000 and Above M-355 Stainless Steel SCT 1000 and Above AM-362 (Almar 362) Stainless Steel 3 Hrs. at 1000°F Carpenter 20Cb Stainless Steel All Carpenter 20Cb-3 Stainless Steel All Custom 450 Stainless Steel H1000 and Above Custom 455 Stainless Steel H1000 and Above 15-5PH Stainless Steel H1000 and Above PH15-7Mo Stainless Steel CH900 17-7PH Stainless Steel CH900

- (1) Including weldments of 304L, 316L, 321, and 347
- (2) Including weldments

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TABLE I

ALLOYS WITH HIGH RESISTANCE TO STRESS CORROSION CRACKING

(Continued)

ALUMINUM ALLOYS

Wroug	<u>ht</u>	Cast	
Alloy (1)	Temper (2)	Alloy (3)	Temper
1000 Series 2011 2024 Rod, Bar 2219 2618 3000 Series 5000 Series 6000 Series 7049 7149 7050 7075 7475	All T8 T6, T8 T6, T8 T6 All All(4), (5) All T73 T73 T73 T73	319.0, A319.0 333.0, A333.0 355.0, C355.0 356.0, A356.0 357.0 B358.0 (Tens-50) 359.0 380.0, A380.0 514.0, (214) 518.0, (218) 535.0 (Almag 35) A712.0, C712.0	As Cast As Cast T6 All All All All As Cast As Cast(5) As Cast(5) As Cast(5) As Cast

- (1) Including weldments of the weldable alloys.
- (2) Including mechanically stress relieved (TX5X or TX5XX) tempers when applicable.
- (3) The former designation is shown in parenthesis where significantly different.
- (4) High magnesium alloys 5456, 5083, and 5086 should be used in controlled tempers (H111, H112, H116, H117, H323, H343) for resistance to SCC and exfoliation.
- (5) Alloys with magnesium content greater than 3.0 percent are not recommended for high temperature application, 66°C (150°F) and above.

TABLE I ALLOYS WITH HIGH RESISTANCE TO STRESS CORROSION CRACKING

(Continued)

COPPER ALLOYS

CDA No. (1)	Condition (% Cold Rolled) (2)	
110 170 172 194 195	37 AT, HT ⁽³⁾ AT, HT ⁽³⁾ 37 90	
230	40	
422	37	
443	10	
510	37	
521	3 <i>7</i> 0	
524	0	
606	40 (9% B phase)	
619	40 (95% B phase)	
619		CHG 1
638	· 0 0	
655 688	40	
704	0	
706	50	
710	0	
715	0	_
725	40	CHGI
752	50	•

- (1)
- Copper Development Association alloy number.
 Maximum percent cold rolled for which SCC data (2) is available.
- AT Annealed and precipitation hardened. HT Work hardened and precipitation hardened. (3)

Condition

Condition

TABLE I

ALLOYS WITH HIGH RESISTANCE TO STRESS CORROSION CRACKING

(Continued)

NICKEL ALLOYS

MISCELLANEOUS ALLOYS

Alloy	<u>Condition</u>
Beryllium S-200C HS 25 (L605) HS 188(1) MP35N MP159 Titanium 3A1-2.5V Titanium 5A1-2.5SN Titanium 6A1-4V Titanium 10Fe-2V-3A1 Titanium 13V-11Cr-3A1 Titanium IMI 550 Magnesium MIA Magnesium LA141 Magnesium LA2933	Annealed All Cold Worked and Aged Cold Worked and Aged All All All All All All All All All Al
-	•

(1) Including weldments

Alloy

CHGI

TABLE II

ALLOYS WITH MODERATE RESISTANCE TO STRESS CORROSION CRACKING

STEEL ALLOYS

Alloy	Condition
Carbon Steel (1000 Series) Low Alloy Steel (4130, 4340, D6AC, etc.) Nitronic 60 400 Series Martensitic Stainless Steel (except 440) AM350 Stainless Steel AM355 Stainless Steel Custom 450 Stainless Steel Custom 455 Stainless Steel PH13-8Mo Stainless Steel 15-5PH Stainless Steel 17-4PH Stainless Steel	180 to 200 ksi UTS 180 to 200 ksi UTS Annealed (1) Below SCT 1000 Below SCT 1000 Below H1000 Below H1000 All Below H1000 All

(1) Tempering between 700 and 1100°F shall be avoided because corrosion and stress corrosion cracking resistance is lowered.

MAGNESIUM ALLOYS

Alloy	Condition
AZ31B	All
ZK60A	All

TABLE II

ALLOYS WITH MODERATE RESISTANCE TO STRESS CORROSION CRACKING

(Continued)

ALUMINUM ALLOYS (1) (2)

Wrought

Alloy	<u>Condition</u>
2024 Rod, Bar, Extrusion 2024 Plate, Extrusions 2124 Plate 2048 Plate 4032 5083 5086 5456 7001 7049 7050 7075 7175	T6, T62 T8 T8 T8 T6 A11(3) A11(3) A11(3) T75, T76 T76 T76 T76 T736, T76 T76 T776
7178	Т76

- (1) Mechanically stress relieved products (TX5X or TX5XX) should be specified where possible.
- (2) Sheet, unmachined extrusions, and unmachined plate are the most resistant forms.
- (3) Except for the controlled tempers listed in Footnote 4 CHG of Table 1, Aluminum Alloys. These alloys are not recommended for high temperature application, 66°C (150°F) and above.

TABLE III

ALLOYS WITH LOW RESISTANCE TO STRESS CORROSION CRACKING

STEEL ALLOYS

Alloy	Condition
Carbon Steel (1000 Series) Low Alloy Steel (4130, 4340, D6AC, etc.) H-ll Steel 4340M 440C Stainless Steel 18 Ni Maraging Steel, 200 Grade 18 Ni Maraging Steel, 250 Grade 18 Ni Maraging Steel, 300 Grade 18 Ni Maraging Steel, 300 Grade 18 Ni Maraging Steel, 350 Grade PH15-7-Mo Stainless Steel 17-7 PH Stainless Steel	Above 200 ksi UTS Above 200 ksi UTS Above 200 ksi UTS All All Aged at 900°F All except CH900 All except CH900

Wrought

ALUMINUM ALLOYS (1), (2)

Wrought		Cast	
Alloy	Condition	Alloy	Condition
2011 2014 2017 2024 2024 Forgings 2024 Plate Al-Li 2090 2219 BS L93 7001 7005 7039 7075 7175 7175 7079 7178	T3, T4 A11 A11 T3, T4 T6, T62, T8 T62 T8E41 T3, T4 T6 T6 A11 A11 T6 T6 T6 T6	295.0 (195) B295.0 (B195) 520.0 (220) 707.0 (607, Ternalloy D712.0 (D612, 40E)	T6 T6 T4 7) T6 As Cast
/4/3	Т6		

- Mechanically stress relieved products (TX5X or TX5XX) should be specified where possible. (1)
- (2) Sheet, unmachined extrusions, and unmachined plate are the least susceptible forms.

TABLE III

ALLOYS WITH LOW RESISTANCE TO STRESS CORROSION CRACKING

(Continued)

COPPER ALLOYS

CDA No. 1 (1)	Condition ⁽²⁾ % Cold Rolled)
260	50
353	50
443	40
672	50, Annealed
687	10, 40
762	A, 25, 50
766	38
770	38, 50, Annealed
782	50

- (1) Copper Development Association Alloy Number.(2) Rating based on listed conditions only.

MAGNESIUM ALLOYS

Alloy	Condition
AZ61A	All
AZ80A	All

APPENDIX A

LIST OF SELECTED REFERENCES ON STRESS CORROSION

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APPENDEX C

STRESS CORROSION EVALUATION FORM

1.	Part Number
2.	Part Name
3.	Next Assembly Number
4.	Manufacturer
5.	Material
6.	Heat Treatment
7.	Size and Form
8.	Sustained Tensile Stresses-Magnitude and Direction
a.	Process Residual
b.	Assembly
c.	Design, Static
9.	Special Processing
10.	Weldments
8.	Alloy Form, Temper of Parent Metal
b.	Filler Alloy if none, indicate
C	Welding Process
d	Weld Bead Removed - Yes (), No ()
e	. Post-Weld Thermal Treatment
f	Post-Weld Stress Relief
11	Environment

APPENDIX C (CONTINUED)

12.	Protective Finish
13.	Function of Part
14.	Effect of Failure
15.	Evaluation of Stress Corrosion Susceptibility
16.	Remarks:

APPENDIX C (CONTINUED)

- 1-4. Part Identification Information identifying specific part being evaluated.

 These headings may be modified as needed...
 - 5. Material Material should be identified as specified on drawing. Specific alloy and temper designation of raw material from which part is fabricated should be given.
 - 6. Heat Treatment All thermal treatments which the part receives should be listed.
 - 7. Size and Form Approximate dimensions of raw material from which part is fabricated should be listed. The raw material form (bar, plate, sheet extrusion, forgings, etc.) should also be shown.
 - 8. Sustained Tensile Stresses An estimation of all sustained tensile stresses should be made. The stresses should be listed according to their source (8a. Process, b. Assembly, c. Design) and the basis on which the estimation was made. Any special precautions taken to control stresses should be noted.
 - 9. Special Processing Any processes used for reducing tensile stresses (such as shot peening or stress relief treatments) should be noted.
 - 10. Weldments An SCC evaluation should be made of all weldments and all information that may assist in the evaluation should be submitted. The alloy, form, and temper of the parent metal, filler alloy if any, welding process, weld bead removed, post-weld thermal treatment or stress relief as listed in 10a. through 10f. is the type of information required.
 - 11. Environment An evaluation should be made as to the corrosive environment to which the part will be exposed during its lifetime. This includes exposure during fabrication, assembly, and component storage as well as environmental conditions during use.
 - 12. Protective Finish Any finishes which are applied for corrosion protection or finishes which might affect the basic corrosion resistance of the component should be listed.
 - 13. Function of Part The basic function of the part (or if more pertinent the assembly) should be listed.

APPENDIX C (CONTINUED)

- 14. Effect of Failure List the possible effect that failure of the part (or assembly) will have on the over all function or mission of the major assembly involved.
- 15. Evaluation of Stress Corrosion Susceptibility This should include the rationale on which the material selection was made and a short explanation as to why no stress corrosion problem is expected.
- 16. Remarks Any additional information or explanatory notes not otherwise listed should be included.